



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
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For Immediate Release
May 25, 2010

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VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HOSPITAL GOES SOLAR

In an effort to increase the use of renewable energy, the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is installing a 265 kilowatt (kW) solar electric system at its Palo Alto division. The VA has contracted REC Solar, Inc. of Sunnyvale, CA to begin construction of the system this summer, which will be fully operational by February 2011.

With solar panels on three rooftops and a carport, the hospital will produce over 375 kW hours of clean electricity annually, which is enough to power over 374 VA employee computer workstations. The first 25 years of the solar electric system at VAPAHCS will reduce the hospitals greenhouse gas emission by 14.8 million pounds.

The solar system is part of VA's efforts to enhance efficiency and maximize savings, allowing more money to go towards the department's greater mission -- to serve Veterans. By 2015, VA's goal is to cut energy and water consumption, as well as vehicle fuel use, by 2 percent a year saving nearly \$64,000 per year per average facility.